

August 31, 2015

Mr. Robert Brooks,
State Archaeologist
Oklahoma Archeological Survey
111 East Chesapeake, No. 102
Norman, Oklahoma 73019-5111

RE: Wilcox Oil Company Superfund Site and National Historic Preservation Act Section 106

Dear Mr. Brooks:

The Wilcox Oil Company Superfund Site (Site) in Bristow, Creek County, Oklahoma was listed on the National Priorities List in December 2013 under the Comprehensive, Environmental, Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as Superfund. Because this Site is listed, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) will be investigating the Site to determine the nature and extent of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants as well as the human health and environmental risks that may be present as a result of former operations. Future actions at the Site may include remediation of contamination based on the results of the investigation and associated risk assessments.

This project is subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Based on our review of the National Register of Historic Places, the history of operation, and investigations performed by ODEQ, no State cultural or historical resources or properties are located within the project boundary or will be affected by the investigation and potential remediation that will be conducted by EPA and the ODEQ.

Please find provided on the following pages, Site information to assist with your review. Documentation as detailed in Section 800.11(d) includes,

- a description of the Wilcox Oil Company Superfund Site;
- a delineation of the area of potential effects, including maps, aerial photographs, and Site photographs;
- a summary description of the effort we made to identify historic properties; and,
- the basis for determining that no historic properties are present or affected.

Due to the nature of the activities at the Site and the long-term operation of the refinery (approximately 40 to 50 years), this Site is both heavily contaminated and disturbed. Thus, there are no historic properties present which leads us to a no adverse effect determination for this Site.

Please review the material enclosed and contact me at (214) 665-8143, or coltrain.katrina@epa.gov if you have questions. If we do not hear from you within 30 days after your receipt of this letter, we will assume that you do not object to our determination of no adverse effect to historic properties. EPA will proceed with the Site investigation and remediation and will notify you as well as the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Officer regarding any inadvertent discovery of historic properties.

Sincerely,

Katrina Higgins-Coltrain
Remedial Project Manager
LA/OK/NM Section, Superfund Division

State Archaeologist Concurs with Finding: _____

State Archaeologist Review and Date: _____

Enclosure 1: Site Description and Operation History

Full Title of Site: Wilcox Oil Company Superfund Site (OK0001010917)

Federal Funding Agency: The funding agency requesting the historical review is the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6.

Wilcox Oil Company Location: Reference Maps included.

Address: West 221st Street South/Refinery Road, 0.35 mile east of U.S. Highway 66

City, County, State: Bristow, Creek County, OK, 74010

Topographic Map: Bristow Quadrangle, OK

Latitude: 35°50'26.8966" N Longitude: 96°22'48.693" W

Township-Range: N ½ of the NW ¼ of S29 T16N R9E and the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of S20 T16N R9E

Site History and Background: The Wilcox Oil Company Superfund Site (Site) is an abandoned and demolished oil refinery and associated tank farm located north of Bristow, Creek County, Oklahoma. The geographic coordinates of the Site are approximately 35°50'31" North latitude and 96°23'02" West longitude. A detailed title search in the Creek County Clerk office confirms that the property was used in oil refinery operations from approximately 1915 until November 1963. The former Lorraine refinery, including associated tank farm, covers approximately 20 of the 125 acre Site, and operated under numerous companies from approximately 1915 to 1937 when the property was sold to Wilcox Oil and Gas Company. Wilcox Oil and Gas Company purchased refinery operations on the remaining acres east of the railroad tracks and operated as a crude oil refinery from the 1920s until the property was sold on 1 November 1963.

A modern skimming and cracking plant was constructed in 1929. The upgraded facility had an operating capacity of 4,000 barrels of crude oil per day. The main components of the system consisted of a skimming plant, cracking unit, and redistillation battery with a vapor recovery system and continuous treating equipment. The crude oil was brought directly from the field, eliminating storage and handling facilities, but resulting in crude with high sediment and water.

Sanborn fire insurance maps can be used to understand historical property usage. The Wilcox Oil and Gas Company and Lorraine Refining Company Sanborn Insurance Maps indicate that the properties contained approximately 80 storage tanks of various sizes, a cooling pond, and around 10 buildings housing refinery operations. The maps also indicate that crude oil, fuel oil, gas oil, distillate, kerosene, naptha, and benzene (petroleum ether) were all stored on the property.

The Site can be divided into four major former operational areas: the Wilcox refinery, the Lorraine refinery, the north tank farm, and the east tank farm.

- The former Wilcox refinery area is fenced and covers approximately 26 acres. Most of the equipment and storage tanks that remained on-site in 1963 were auctioned and have been salvaged for scrap iron by private land owners, and what remains are in ruins. Four aboveground storage tanks (12,500 gallons each) remain standing, in addition to a number of buildings, discarded drums and pieces of scrap iron and piping. There are multiple areas of stressed vegetation, barren areas, and visible black tarry waste of a

hydrocarbon nature. A building in the northern part of the former refinery has been converted to a residence. An intermittent creek flows southward across the eastern portion of the refinery area through a small pond in the southeast corner of the refinery area and into Sand Creek.

- The former Lorraine refinery area covers approximately 8 acres and includes the southwestern portion of the Site, south of Refinery Road and west of the railroad. No refinery structures remain in the processing area. The First Assembly of God Church, a playground, and one residence are located here. There are multiple areas of stressed vegetation, barren areas, and visible black tarry waste of a hydrocarbon nature.
- The East tank farm was a large crude oil storage area/tank farm covering approximately 79 acres and contains pits, ponds, and a number of circular berms that surrounded tank locations. All of the tanks have been cut down and removed; however, remnants of the tank locations remain and are visible. Many of the berms surrounding the pits, ponds, and former tanks have been cut or leveled. An intermittent creek is located in the eastern portion of the tank farm and flows south to Sand Creek. A pumping or gas compressor station exists in the north-central portion of the Site, and an active pipeline crosses from northwest to southeast across the middle of the Site. There are four residences located on top of or directly next to former tank locations. There are multiple areas of stressed vegetation, barren areas, and visible black tarry waste of a hydrocarbon nature. Waste was also observed in several drainage channels that empty into Sand Creek.
- The North tank farm was a crude and fuel oil storage area consisting of approximately 12 acres. No refinery structures remain in the product storage area, and all tanks have been cut down and removed. Remnants of the tank locations are not visible, and historic locations are difficult to pinpoint. One residence is located in this area.

After the refinery operations ceased and most of the tanks and buildings demolished and sold for scrap, the property was sold to private interests. Beginning in 1975 with the construction of the church, private residences were constructed on 6 parcels of land that were part of the former refinery operations. The most recent being constructed in 2003/2004. One former building associated with the refinery was repurposed as a residence. As a result, there are a total of seven residences on the Site, all of which are located on former tank or refinery operations locations. Three of the residences located on the eastern portion of the Site are known to use water from domestic/private wells. The drainage pattern of the Site is primarily towards Sand Creek which provides the western and southwestern boundaries of the Site. Two intermittent streams and several drainage channels cross the portion of the Site east of the railroad and flow into Sand Creek.

The refinery waste source areas of concern include a backfilled oily waste pond and pit, a breached settling pond, a former pond apparently backfilled with solid refinery waste, and a number of former tank storage areas. The contaminants of concern are metals and organic compounds (Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)). These potential contaminants of concern are found in soil, sediment, and waste material.

Investigation History: Multiple investigations have been performed on the Site since 1994. These documents were used to summarize the Site background and operational history described above.

- Preliminary Assessment (PA) was performed at the former Wilcox Refinery Site by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) in December 1994.
- Expand Site Inspection (ESI) was performed at the former Wilcox Refinery Site for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in March 1997.
- Site Assessment (SA) was performed at the former Wilcox Refinery Site by EPA in March 1999.
- PA was performed at the former Lorraine Refinery Site by ODEQ in September 2008.
- Site Inspection (SI) was performed at the former Lorraine Refinery Site by ODEQ in August 2009.
- ESI was performed at the former Lorraine Refinery Site by ODEQ in September 2010.
- ESI was performed at the former Wilcox Refinery Site by ODEQ in September 2011.
- Hazard Ranking System Package completed in May 2013.
- Residential Sampling completed 2015. Data review is underway.
- 2015: Planned and ongoing RI investigation by EPA including geophysical and direct sensing techniques.

Cleanup History: The following actions have been taken at the Site.

- EPA and ODEQ met with residents on March 24 and 25, 2015, to talk about property sampling. As a result, the EPA sampled 9 residential properties in May/June 2015 and fenced additional areas of concern.
- In November 2014, ODEQ informed EPA that there was a potential elevated level of lead in the blood of a child living on the Site. The EPA developed a sampling plan and sampled the property in December 2014.
- In July 2014, the EPA installed a cap on the drinking water well near the Church on the Site and put up a fence with signs around an area of concern.
- Currently, ODEQ is performing quarterly testing of drinking water wells for residents in and around this Site. No Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) have been exceeded.

Cleanup Status: This Site is currently in the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study phase of the Superfund process. The RI/FS identifies the type and extent of contamination, evaluates if there is a health risk for humans and wildlife, identifies a list of cleanup options that can be used to cleanup the contamination at the Site, and estimates the cost of each cleanup option. Based on results of the RI/FS phase, a Proposed Plan is written to identify the preferred cleanup option and the cost. The Proposed Plan is expected to be released to the public for review and comment in 2018.

Enclosure 2: Delineation of the area of potential effects, including maps, aerial photographs, and Site photographs

Enclosure 2a: Delineation of the area of potential effects

Enclosure 2b: Aerial photographs

Enclosure 2c: Site photographs

Enclosure 3: Summary description of the effort we made to identify historic properties

In an effort to identify historic properties within the project area letters were sent to the Oklahoma Historical Society (July 14, 2015) and the Oklahoma Archeological Survey (July 14, 2015) to assist in identification of historical locations/properties in the area. In addition, the Oklahoma online registries were searched. In response on July 27, 2015, the Oklahoma Archeological Survey did not identify archaeological sites within our project area; however, the letter indicated that archeological material are likely to be encountered. In response on July 29, 2015, the Oklahoma Historical Society indicated that a determination could not be made at this time due to insufficient information.

Oklahoma Listings in the National Register of Historic Places

The following districts, buildings, sites, structures, and objects are listed in the National Register of Historic Places as of July 10, 2015. Each entry includes: property name (followed in parentheses by archaeological site number and/or name of MPS, MRA or TR nomination, if any of these designations are applicable); location (unless this information is restricted); date of listing; National Register Criteria Code(s) under which the property was listed; any appropriate HABS, HAER and/or NHL designations; and the National Register Information System (NRIS) assigned number; and if the property has been removed from the National Register, that information will be noted in parentheses.

Creek County (Code 037)

Please refer to the National Registry Map for locations.

Bristow:

1. Beard Motor Company
[Route 66 & Associated Historic Resources in Oklahoma MPS], 210 East 9th, 5/27/04, A,C, 04000522.
2. Bristow Firestone Service Station
[Route 66 & Associated Historic Resources in Oklahoma MPS], 321 North Main, 9/6/07, A,C, 07000912.
3. Bristow Motor Company Building
[Route 66 & Associated Historic Resources in Oklahoma MPS], 500 North Main, 2/23/95, A, 95000032.
4. Bristow Presbyterian Church
6th & Elm, 10/3/79, C,a, 79001992.
5. Bristow Tire Shop
[Route 66 & Associated Historic Resources in Oklahoma MPS], 115 West 4th, 2/23/95, A,C, 95000033.
6. Texaco Service Station
[Route 66 & Associated Historic Resources in Oklahoma MPS], 201 West 4th, 2/23/95, A,C, 95000034.

Bristow vicinity:

7. Little Deep Fork Creek Bridge
[Route 66 & Associated Historic Resources in Oklahoma MPS], .33 mile East of Jct. of County Roads #E0830 & #N3700, 12/5/03, A,C, 03001237.
8. Tank Farm Loop Route 66 Roadbed
[Route 66 & Associated Historic Resources in Oklahoma MPS], Jct. of SH-66 & Old Highway 66, .6 mile West of I-44 Overpass, 9/6/06, A,C, 06000797.

Following is a guide to the codes used in the entries.

- A,B,C, or D: Listed in the National Register for Criterion A, association with important events; B, association with important persons; C, architectural, artistic, or design merit, or representative of a period or a type of construction; or D, likely to yield information.
- a - g: Property types eligible for the National Register only under special circumstances: (a) religious property; (b) moved property; (c) birthplace or grave; (d) cemetery; (e) reconstructed property; (f) commemorative property; or (g) property less than fifty (50) years old when listed.
- AD: Additional Documentation.
- HABS: Documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey.
- HAER: Documented by the Historic American Engineering Record.
- MPS: Individually listed as part of a Multiple Property Submission.
- MRA: Individually listed as part of a Multiple Resource Area nomination.
- NHL: Designated a National Historic Landmark.
- TR: Individually listed as part of a Thematic Resource nomination.

Reference: National Register Handbook. State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society.
(<http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/NRHANDBK.htm>). July 10, 2015.

Enclosure 4: Basis for determining that no historic properties are present or affected

Based on our review of the National Register of Historic Places, the history of operation, and investigations performed by ODEQ, no State cultural or historical resources or properties are located within the project boundary or will be affected by the investigation and potential remediation that will be conducted by EPA and the ODEQ.

1. Review of the National Register of Historic Places, did not identify any resources or landmarks located within the project boundaries.
2. The Site property was the location of an active oil refinery from approximately 1915 to 1963.
3. Aerial photographs of the Site show refinery operations extended across the entire Site. When operations ceased, most of the refinery buildings, tanks, piping, and infrastructure were dismantled, demolished, and left for ruin. The only activity conducted was the sale and construction of single family homes and a church. The church and the homes exists today.
4. Site photographs show the location of refinery waste material throughout the Site property. The location of the waste material coincides, in many cases, with the locations of the process area and individual tank locations in the tank farm areas.
5. Investigations conducted by ODEQ show waste to be present. High concentrations of organics and metals have been found in soil, sediment, and surface water. Ground water is expected to be impacted due to the presence of a light non-aqueous phase liquid (i.e., a liquid that does not dissolve in water and floats on the water's surface) near the church. The exact size and extent is currently unknown.

As part of the investigation, Site field studies including subsurface testing, will be conducted. Should new information becomes available that would indicate the presence of cultural or historical resources, we will coordinate with your office on any future actions.